

# Gija language

**Kija** (variously spelled **Gija**, Kitja, Gidja) is an Australian Aboriginal language today spoken by about 100 people, most of whom live in the region from Halls Creek to Kununurra and west to Lansdowne and Tableland Stations in Western Australia. It is a member of the Jarragan language family, a non-Pama-Nyungan family in the East Kimberleys. The Argyle Diamond Mine, on the south western corner of Lake Argyle is on the borders of Gija and Miriwoong country. The Purnululu (pronounced as 'Boornoolooloo') Bungle Bungle National Park is mostly in Gija country.

Kuluwarrang and Walgi may have been dialects.

## References

1. "Census 2016, Language spoken at home by Sex (SA2+)" ([http://stat.data.abs.gov.au/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=ABS\\_C16\\_T09\\_SA](http://stat.data.abs.gov.au/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=ABS_C16_T09_SA)). *stat.data.abs.gov.au*. ABS. Retrieved 30 October 2017.

2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Kitja" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/kitj1240>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

3. K20 (<https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/K20>) Gija at the Australian Indigenous Languages Database, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

▪ Blythe, J. *Yuwurriyngem Kijam (our Language Kija): a Phrasebook of the Kija Language*. Halls Creek: Kimberley Language Resource Centre.

▪ Kofod, F. M. (1996). *Introduction to the Kija Language*. Halls Creek: Kimberley Language Resource Centre.

▪ Kofod, F. M. (2016). *Gija~Kija-English Dictionary*. Warmin: Warmun Arts.

▪ Taylor, P.; Taylor, J. (1971). "A tentative statement of Kitja phonology". *Papers on the Languages of Australian Aboriginals*: 100–19.

▪ Taylor, P.; Hudson, J. (1976). "Metamorphosis and Process in Kija". *Talanya*. **3**: 25–36.

Gija	
Kija	
Region	From Halls Creek to Kununurra, Western Australia
Ethnicity	Gija
Native speakers	169 (2016 census) <sup>[1]</sup>
Language family	Jarrakan <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Gija</li></ul></div>
Writing system	Latin
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	gia
Glottolog	kitj1240 ( <a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/kitj1240">http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/kitj1240</a> ) <sup>[2]</sup>
AIATSIS <sup>[3]</sup>	K20 ( <a href="https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/K20">https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/K20</a> )

## External links

▪ Bibliography of Kija people and language resources ([https://web.archive.org/web/20150529045334/http://aiatsis.gov.au/sites/default/files/kija\\_gidja.pdf](https://web.archive.org/web/20150529045334/http://aiatsis.gov.au/sites/default/files/kija_gidja.pdf)), at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

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